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In the recent gatherings, however, the sporangia show a remarkable tendency to aggregation into clumps of from twelve to twenty, the stipes growing together to form a thick compound stipe surmounted by the densely clustered sporangia. In some cases these are distorted by crowding, having their adjoining walls grown together, constituting stipitate æthalia.

The clustered sporangia have usually a purplish metallic lustre rather than the silver or bronze lustre of the single forms.

The capillitium differs from the type only in the presence of an extraordinary number of small dark-violet colored bulbous thickenings occurring upon the threads in their course, similar to those found in the capillitium of certain species of *Didymium* and *Chondrioderma*. These thickenings are ellipsoidal, turbinate or conical in shape and occur more frequently near the ends of the threads.

The speaker thought that these peculiar thickenings were of special interest on account of their bearing upon the relative position of the genus *Diachæa* in the systematic classification of the Myxomycetes. As they are almost exclusively found in certain species of the Didymiaceæ and the single species of the genus *Spumaria*, this species at least, of the genus *Diachæa* would seem to be connected with the Calcareæ by good structural characters other than the mere existence of granules of lime in the stipes and columellas of the sporangia.

The bulbous thickenings were also found in the capillitium of the type specimens but not conspicuously, or to a greater extent than they are sometimes found in the other species of *Diachæa*.

The speaker concluded that the genus *Diachæa* was properly associated with the Order Didymiaceæ (including the genus *Spumaria*) notwithstanding its points of resemblance to the genus *Lamproderma* suggesting its possibly closer relationship to the Order Stemonitaceæ.

The differences between the present gatherings and the former ones were probably due to climatic causes, the excessive rainfall and great atmospheric humidity prevailing in the North Carolina mountains during July and the early part of August of the present year, causing an exuberant development of plasmodium which resulted in a growth of unusually aggregated and æthalioid forms

OCTOBER 23.

DR. C. N. PEIRCE in the Chair.

Twenty-five persons present.

A paper entitled "Notes on the Mammals of Monroe and Pike Counties, Pennsylvania," by Samuel N. Rhoads, was presented for publication.

The death of F. Oden Horstmann, a member, was announced.